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ORIGINAL

1/20/00 DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

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Washington, D.C.

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Dear Sirs:

FRA. 99-6439-29

I am presently a railroad Conductor working for Norfolk/Southern. Having previously worked for Penn Central/Con-Rail. My ears have been harmed from too many train whistles. I read that the federal **governemnt** is considering banning the Train Whistle Bans? This would do nothing but harm in my opinion as one who has seen far too many cars go around the gates while we were frantically blowing the horn! If "**they**" are going to go around downed gates, with lights flashing and see a train coming, What ~~may~~ I ask, is a train whistle going to do? In every crash that I have been involved as well as fatal ones. The train whistle was ALWAYS being blown. We do have engineers that blow continuously when there are many crossing in a city. Imagine the effect in an area like Main Street in **Mishawaka**, IN where a hospital is nearby: operations are going on, patients are trying to rest? How do you do this under the constant **blarring** of a train whistle? I agree that train whistles should be blown at all unprotected crossings, **ie:** no gates or lights.

Sincerely,

R.D. Loy

R.D. Loy



Rev. Railton Loy
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